



County of San Diego

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HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
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Children, Youth & Family Health Services
Disease Control/Epidemiology
Disease Prevention/Health Promotion
Emergency Medical Services
HIV/AIDS Services
Medical Quality Assurance
Public Health Laboratory
PH Nursing/Border Health
TB & STD Control
Vital Records

Emergency Medical Care Committee (EMCC)
Bruce Fried, Chair/Janie Taylor, R.N., Vice-Chair
c/o Emergency Medical Services
6255 Mission Gorge Road
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MISSION STATEMENT

"As advisors to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, the mission of the Emergency Medical Care Committee is to be an advocate for the community through the development of strategies for continuous improvement of the emergency medical services system."

EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

Thursday, March 25, 2004

Members Present

Adams, Chief Gary – S.D. Co. Fire Chiefs' Association
Beeson, Travis – American Red Cross
Benitez, Eustacio – Binational EMCC
Berthiaume, R.N., Shelley – Base Hosp. Nurse Coord.
Billick, Sgt. Gary – Law Enforcement Agencies
Brown, R.N., Lana – Emergency Nurses' Association
Fisher, Roger – S.D. Co. Paramedic Association
Forman, R.N., Kelly – Co. Paramedic Agencies' Comm.
Fried, Bruce – Fifth District
Goldsmith, Donna – League of California Cities
Graham, Dan – S.D. Co. Ambulance Association
Griffiths, Jack – Third District
Jobs, Chief Darrell – S.D. Co. Fire Districts' Assoc.
Rudnick, R.N., Sharon – Healthcare Assoc. S.D./Imp. Co.
Taylor, R.N., Janie – Second District

Vacant

Emergency Physicians' Society
Military Agencies
S.D. Co. Medical Society

Members Absent

Schroeder, Dave – Fourth District
Yokley, Richard – First District

Guests Present

Alton, Bill – San Diego Fire Rescue
Esquibel, Jim – East Co. Fire Protection District
Johnson, Wayne – S.D. Medical Services Enterprise
Ochs, R.N., Ginger – San Diego Fire Rescue
Skoglund, R.N., Patty – Scripps Mercy
Welsh, R.N., June – American Red Cross

Staff Present

Bonesteel, R.N., Jeri
Jones, Gwen
Metz, R.N., Marcy
Vilke, M.D., Gary

Recorder

Rupp, Merle

I. INTRODUCTION/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bruce Fried, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION made by Chief Gary Adams, Seconded by Sgt. Gary Billick., to approve the Minutes of February 26, 2004 as submitted. MOTION carried. One abstention: Roger Fisher, (absent from last meeting).

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS

None.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REFERRALS FOR ACTION

A. Disaster/Operations and Planning

The subcommittee met and made revisions to the Ambulance Ordinance. The Air Medical Plan has now been incorporated into the Ambulance Ordinance. The fee schedule is under review by various groups and not to be approved at this time.

Discussion ensued regarding some agencies/cities operating in other areas other than the City of San Diego who are permitted by the County of San Diego to do business; however, some municipalities choose not to adopt it; one reason being the financial aspect, due to the manner in which the Ambulance Ordinance is structured. It was recommended that a meeting between the County and substantial participants throughout the different municipalities occur so that appropriate language for all agencies/cities could be developed.

MOTION made by Chief Darrell Jobs, Seconded by Jack Griffiths to strongly encourage and recommend that every city in San Diego County adopt the same ordinance or similar ordinance because, even though a company can comply with the County, if they go into the City of San Diego, there is no standard other than the City standard and the agency could ignore the County's Ambulance Ordinance when they operate in a city that doesn't abide by those standards. MOTION carried.

MOTION (with the above-mentioned amendment) made by Chief Darrell Jobs, Seconded by Jack Griffiths, to approve the Ambulance Ordinance with suggested amendment and revisions made, including the revisions at this meeting. MOTION carried.

B. Prehospital/Hospital

MOTION made by Chief Darrell Jobs, Seconded by Dan Graham, to approve Policy A-876 as presented. One abstention: Kelly Forman, R.N. citing conflict of interest.

C. Education/Research

Did not meet.

D. Base Hospital Physicians' Committee

Gary Vilke, M.D., County EMS, reported on the following subjects:

- Protocol Revisions: Are coming into the final stages. Dr. Vilke thanked R.N.'s Debi Workman, Joanne Stonecipher, Ginger Ochs and Marcy Metz for their tremendous assistance.
- San Diego County Medical Society EMS Oversight Committee: Continues to meet monthly. The committee is working on an ETT turnover guideline to facilitate ETT confirmation, define airway turnover and minimize the risk of inadvertent ETT dislodgement upon patient transfer from medic gurney to emergency department bed.
- Patient Turnover: A second topic the committee is planning to address is that of ambulance offload delays, coupled with delays in giving reports to a hospital provider once inside the emergency department.
- County EMS Chief Retirement: Gwen Jones, Chief, EMS, has announced her retirement, effective June 30, 2004. Gwen has worked for County EMS for 20 years and has been instrumental in facilitating collaboration between all the community stakeholders while continuing to move San Diego County EMS forward as a national leader.
- EMS Resignation: Eddie Castillo, Ph.D., Biostatistician, has also resigned to take a position with SDSU. His contributions will be missed.
- Patient Destination Data: After the winter months, the number of patients who bypassed their requested hospital destination, has begun decreasing.

E. Executive Committee

Did not meet.

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. EMS Five Year Plan Update

A copy of the edited draft was distributed to work group members. No comments have been received back from that as of yet. The work group will hold another meeting soon via conference call.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Assembly Bill 2293

Beginning a couple of years ago, a work group was formed at the State through the EMS Vision Process, looking at the governance of EMS systems in California and the impact of those systems. The group also began reviewing local EMCC's and their role throughout the State. The League of California Cities and CSAC (California Association of Counties) who sponsor the Assembly Bill, then formed a small group and developed compliance language on how to handle complaints and appeals. In Assembly Bill 2293, the membership of EMCC's is redefined and gives the EMCC's very specific responsibilities, including being the mediator or hearer of complaints, problems or issues perceived in the system. Also, if an agency feels their issues aren't being resolved in their own EMS system, they could take it to the EMCC for a final decision. If the Assembly Bill passes, an annual report will need to be completed each year by the EMCC that is sent to the County Board of Supervisors which identifies any issue or complaint to the State EMS Authority that occurred during the year.

A hearing will be held on the Assembly Bill on March 30, 2004. The State EMS Administrators discussed the Bill at their last meeting on Tuesday, March 23, 2004 and had some concerns with some language.

VII. STAFF/AGENCY REPORT (Gwen Jones, Chief)

The first draft of the State Interfacility Transport Guidelines has come out and the memo was distributed (dated March 11, 2004) from the State EMS Authority. The guidelines are out for review and comment which began March 22, 2004 until May 5, 2004 (a 45-day public review and comment period). Interested parties can forward their comments to the State and review others' comments as well.

Public comments on the EMT regulations were heard at the State Commission yesterday (March 24, 2004), but those comments were unknown at this time. A few minor revisions had been noted at the last EMDAC meeting.

VIII. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 22, 2004 at 9:00 a.m., Health Services Complex, Executive Conference Room, 3851 Rosecrans Street, San Diego.

MOTION made by Jack Griffiths, Seconded by Chief Darrell Jobes, to adjourn the meeting. MOTION carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Merle Rupp, Board Secretary, County EMS